

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, April 17. 1712.

NOTHING is in our Mouths now, but a Peace, a Peace made, a Peace sign'd; and her Majesty is already brought to the House, by our forward Gentlemen, to give them an Account that She has Concluded a Peace.

And what now Gentlemen? Can you imagine from this, (supposing you to be in your Seats) can you think that her Majesty will say to the House, supposing it were to be as you Report, as above; Do you really believe her Majesty will say, *My Lords and Gentlemen, I am come to tell you, that my Allies and Confederates having long struggled against,* and withstood is, and gone about to

break off the Hopes of a Peace; I have, in spite of them, made a Separate Peace with France; that I have made, carried on all along a clandestine Treaty, and now I have ended the War, made a French Peace, and without any regard to the Satisfaction of my Allies, I have consented to have no more fighting; I have let Spala and the Indies remain to the House of Bourbon, and as to France and Spain becoming one Kingdom, I have left it to Fate; but I have given Peace to my own Subjects, let the rest of the Alliance go to the

WM

Will any Man suggest, that this, or something like this, shall be the Substance of her Majesty's Speech? If they do, let such like Mad-Men talk to themselves, I have nothing to do with them.

Wise-Men always think before they speak, and Fools just the contrary; have we not the Queen's Word given to this House, that all the Steps taken towards a Peace, shall be laid before the House of Commons before it is Concluded? And has her Majesty acquainted them with one Step of it yet? *There's one full Stop to the Notion above said*—For my part, I am never for believing a Report against my Reason, nor am I one of those, who believe the first Rumour of any Thing; those that are forwardest to believe Rumours, are generally the first that are ashamed of it.

I have heard a great deal of Whispering about Signing a Treaty of Commerce with France, and the last hint I saw of it in Publick, the Foolish Author thinking to atone for Suggesting before, that it was actually Sign'd, palliates it with saying, it is Sign'd with an express Proviso, That it shall be void if the General Peace is not Concluded, this shews the exceeding Flux of Ignorance in our News-Paper Politicians; the Thing they think to cover it with, being the only Thing to render it Ridiculous.

Why should a Treaty of Trade with France be Sign'd with that Condition?—Can any Man assign one good Reason, why we have not Traded with France all this War? Why we had not made a Treaty of Commerce with them at first?—I never yet saw one Word offer'd to the contrary, more than this, that so the Parliament had order'd it.

I know the Danger of giving my Opinion in this Case, and if I did not despise the Censurers of this Day, with a Contempt I cannot express, I should forbear; I know it is to no purpose to say to you, that I have, in the Course of this Paper, Printed it ten times over at least, that if we had been in our Trading Wits, we had open'd our Trade with France from the beginning—But thus I should Reprint all the Arguments I

used then, and prove they were Printed so long ago, I shall expect to hear this Paper Reproach'd with Writing for the French Interest: But I am the same still, and ever shall be; Fight with France as long as you will, but Trade with France all the while;—You'll Fight then the better, while you gain by the Trade.

I shall, however, repeat something of what I have Printed already, for the Reasons are the same now as they were then.

1. We ought to Trade with every Nation we can get Money by.
2. Whereas our Trade with France before the Revolution, was carried on 800000 *l.* per Ann. to our Loss, in the Balance; yet after the first War, during the Interval of the Peace of Ryswick, it was apparent from just Calculations, that we Traded to France 900000 *l.* per Month to our Gain, in Balance, as above.
3. By Trading with them, while we gain, we enable ourselves the better to fight them.
5. By prohibiting our Trade with them, we prevented not their obtaining our Lead, or Corn, or Manufactures, whereby they might have been weaken'd, only sending those Goods to Neutral Nations, who sent them at Second Hand to France, we Cheated ourselves of the Advanc'd Profit, and the Supply to our Enemies was the same.

The Dutch, who we never counted Fools in Matters of Trade, knew all this very well, and therefore they maintain'd an open Trade with France to the last, and would have done it to this Hour, if France itself, seeing the Gain they made by it, had not prohibited his Trade with them.

Oh, but Correspondence with the Queen's Enemies! supplying them with Bullets to shoot at us! and the like: Why, Gentlemen, if there were none but English Lead in the World, then, during a War, there should have been none Exported at all, and in Time, the Enemy might have been straight-

straightforward? while any other Nation has our Lead, and the French have Money, Politics with them will want Lead to make Bullets?

These are the Ways we have hitherto Cheated ourselves, and now if a Treaty of Commerce is Sign'd, there must be a Clause to sweeten it, and excuse the Ministry for doing, what, *if it be done*, is the best and most Valuable Thing they are able to do for the Nation; and I think it rather wants an Excuse that it has not been done all this while: Then we had got some of the French Money fairly, and might have been the better able to have beaten them with it——And this had, no Question, been the Duty of the English Government, even from the beginning of the War.

But then follows the Treaty of Peace, which is the main Article; and this is Sign'd say they, for Great Britain, Separately, from the rest of the Allies: Now I wonder they did not say in this Case, as in the other, *viz.* With a Proviso; *To be of no Force, unless the General Peace be Concluded*; this had been a just Defence here indeed, but in the other it was Ridiculous.

I do believe truly, that France will make no Difficulty to grant all the Demands of Great Britain; they seem so Reasonable, that I see no just Ground he can have to refuse them, besides his other Reasons——Now tho' I am, I thank God, in none of the Secrets of this Age——If France has sent, or shall send Word to the Queen of Great Britain, Madam, I do hereby Agree to all Your Majesty's Demands——What could the Queen Answer less or more than this?—Why then I have no more to say, I am ready to make a Conclusion, and I declare myself Satisfy'd, only with this Proviso, That this shall be of no Force, unless the General Peace be Concluded with all the rest of the Allies.

Let us hear what else any one can say, the Queen could Reasonably Answer to this; and what's all this to the purpose now?—If we will call this a SEPARATE PEACE, Peace without our Allies, then I'll give

you an Example or Precedent for it, which none of the Objectors can Answer, and in a Person, whose Honesty and Faithfulness to the Allies was never doubted, *no, not by his Enemies*; and that was that Son of Fame, and Fund of true Glory, King William.

At the Treaty of Ryswick, the Plenipotentiaries of all the Powers Concern'd in the War, met, to consider of a Peace, just as they are now at *You-Trick*; the Treaty hindred not the War; and the King was in the Field with the Confederate Army; but there being some Secret Negotiation necessary, with Respect to the Personal Right, and quiet Possession of the King to, and in the Crown of England, the Marechal de Boufflers and the Earl of Portland began a Separate Treaty at the Head of the two Armies; they did not so much as Acquaint or Concern the Plenipots at the Congress with the Thing; but a Secret, Private, Separate, *Clandestine Treaty*, or what you please to call it, was carried on, and at last Sign'd by the King without them; this Treaty related to the King of France's Treatment of the King of England, as to the Title and Crown of England, and his Treatment also of King James, as to Aiding, Assisting, &c. and other Things.

When this Treaty was Agreed, his Majesty sent to the Congress to acquaint the Plenipotentiaries, that if the Treaty was likely to be Concluded, it should receive no Obstruction on the Account of the King of Great Britain, for that all Things which Concern'd his Majesty's Interest and Affairs, were Concluded, Settled, and Adjusted, to his Majesty's full Satisfaction, between his most Christian Majesty and himself; *these were the very Words.*

Now what would we call this at this Time of Day?—No Man called into question the Honour or Justice of his Majesty, in the Case above, neither was there the least Room for it; for if the Treaty of Ryswick had not been Concluded, all this had stood for nothing——Apply this Home; I care not what Separate Treaty they Agree to or Sign, for the particular Concern of the Queen

Queen of Great-Britain, and her Interest and People, not doubting it shall be sufficient to our Safety at Home, and Commerce Abroad, provided it be with this Condition, that it shall not take Effect, unless

the General Treaty be Concluded; and therefore they cannot be our Friends who amuse us with these false Alarms, till they see farther into the Particulars.

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